(b) if so, the details in this regard and the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps proposed to be taken to make the Tribunals efficients?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (BANKING, REVENUE AND INSURANCE) (SHRI KADAMBUR M.R. JANARTHANAN): (a) to (c) At present nine Debts Recovery Tribunals (DRTs) and one Debts Recovery Appellate Tribunal (DRAT), set up under the Recovery of debts due to Banks and Financial Institutions Act, 1993 are functioning in the country. The performance of the Tribunals has been affected on account of certain court cases, including the one in Delhi High Court declaring the said Act null and void. The Government has however filed a Special Leave Petition in the Hon'ble Supreme Court and DRTs are functioning under orders of the Supreme Court.

DRTs have started showing encouraging results and Government have decided to set up five more Tribunals and four more Appellate Tribunals in the country.

Employees Provident Fund Pension Scheme in Banks

1490. SHRI JALALUDIN ANSARI:
SHRI J. CHITHARANJAN:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the employees provident fund pension scheme has been implemented in the public sector banks;

(b) if so, the banks in which it is being implemented;

(c) whether there is any provision to opt for pension in lieu of contributory provident fund for the employees who desire so; and

(d) if so, the details of such provision?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (BANKING, REVENUE AND INSURANCE) (SHRI KADAMBUR M.R. JANARTHANAN): (a) to (d) In pursurance of an agreement reached between Indian Banks' Association (representing the banks' managements) and workmen unions/officers' association a pension scheme was introduced in the Public Sector Banks (excluding State Bank of India) in lieu of Contributory Provident Fund with effect from 1.11.93. The pension scheme has been implemented in all the public sector banks except State Bank of India which was already having a pension scheme. As per provisions contained in the Pension Regulations the officers/employees who were in the service of the bank on the notified date, i.e., 29.9.95, had an option either to avail the then existing benefits of Contributory Provident Fund (CPF) or opt for pension in lieu of CPF.

As a special dispensation, employees/ officers who retired between 1.1.86 and the notified date, had the option to refund the bank's contribution of CPF and interest thereon together with further interest @ 6 per cent p.a. from the date of receipt of contribution to the date of its repayment to the bank and become entitled to pension scheme.

Increase in Export related irregularity

1491. SHRI LAJPAT RAI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been a massive increase in the export related irregularities during the last three years;

(b) if so, the reasons therefore;

(c) what steps have been taken or are proposed to be taken by Government to check the increase in such types of incidents; and

(d) the law under which action has been taken against persons found guilty of irregularities in export?